

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: Steve Slavsky <sslavsky@CapAccess.org>
Subject: [2631] 17 & 12 Meters
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.950818231606.19927A-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>

As primarily an SSB operator, I consider 17 the SSB version of 30M. It isn't open quite as much, but I have been able to work pretty good distances with 5 watts - very little QRM and virtually no commercial interference. I can't seem to find any favored QRP frequency - I just work 'em as they come.

12M is another story - maybe it will get better when the sunspots improve, but I rarely hear anyone and virtually never get answers to my CQs. Even when I think it should be open - when 17 and 10 are active, it is very quiet.

Anyone want to try and drum up some 17 and 12 QRP activity??

73 & 72,

Steve, N4EUK

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: phil.heaton@wa4bro.atl.ga.us (PHIL HEATON)
Subject: [2637] Antennas-Tuners,etc.
Message-ID: <8AF63D5.01FA000351.uuout@wa4bro.atl.ga.us>

Rh> Hi, it's me again, the fountain of questions.
Rh> What type of antennas and tuners are you guys using for qrp?
Rh> I am mainly looking for cheap ones that work,I see dipolewire antenna
Rh> kits for around 40 dollars for 40m, tuners are around 80 or 90.
Rh> Any suggestions?
Rh> Rob
Rh> KB8SQH

Suggestion #1. Don't buy an antenna kit for \$40! Home Depot is loaded down with #12 stranded/solid wire, although I use copper-weld on mine. Here's what I use for 160m through 30m. I have a 160m 1/2 wave dipole with the apex up about 55 feet in a hemlock tree. One full 1/4 wavelength slopes off and it tied to the subdivision sign.

Copper-weld is "almost" invisible ya know. The other leg sorta inverted vee's down at a right angle to the sloper and is tied to a persimmon tree at about 15 feet up. The other 1/8 wavelength snakes down through the woods parallel to the earth at the same 15 feet height. If you want some of this stealth wire, write to K4KUC in TN. He sells it cheap. I use homemade balanced couplers to couple the radio to the 450 ladder line and antenna. I rx'd a 20dB over S9 into Spain on 20m phone with this antenna running 100W. Talk about a superlobe!

/|\
|

----- Before I grew up. Sorry QRP'rs.

Phil, KE4KRT

___ Blue Wave/QWK v2.20

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: kd7s@valleynet.com (Bill Jones)
Subject: [2630] Bands
Message-ID: <199508190012.RAA23519@sierra.valleynet.com>

I have noticed several references to the *CW Sub-band* on recent postings. According to my information, the *CW Sub-band* for 40 meters is 7.000 MHz through 7.3000 MHz. In other words, in this country there is no such thing as a CW Sub-band. However, if we continue making reference to CW Sub-bands, someone might think it's a good idea. I'll let you speculate as to what might happen then.

=====

Bill Jones - KD7S
Sanger, California
Reply to kd7s@valleynet.com

=====

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: Hank Kohl <k8dd@msn.com>
Subject: [2632] Code Ode
Message-ID: <UPMAIL05.199508190321460670@msn.com>

I'm not sure when this was written, but after reading it a few times, it sums up the way I feel about CW. About as close to pure religion as it gets.

Suitable for framing, depending on your font and printer!

------(cut
here)-----

Code Ode

by

Troy Weidenheimer, WØROF

It's
more than dots and dashes,
It's a place.
A sanctuary for those who've
learned
To love the mysterious magic of
Thoughts arriving in mile-long
strings
On roads of ether and wire.

Even more, it's peace,
A shield from
the disordered sounds
Of traffic, angry people
And industrial clatter,

Within its warm mantle
We find soothing respite.

And the patter of bright
ideas it is,
The sharp focusing of others' thoughts
>From miles beyond our
vision's range,
As in a dream we sit so still.
It floats in our ears and
stirs our minds
With concern, remembrance, speculation
And mirth.

Code
is music,
>From sounders and speakers it dances
In the shack to each
sender's inner clock,

And comes butter smooth, deliciously swinging
Or
choppy staccato from a "fist" praising definition,
Or perfectly metered,
flowing exquisitely
>From the gentle hand of an artist.

A place,
And
peace,
Intelligence and
Music.
Code is more than dots and dashes.

------(cut
here)-----

This hangs in my
shack. Right next to the DXCC's, WAS's, and all that. It
is the smallest
frame, but the biggest words.

That's my attempt at being serious for this
year....I started out in the SSB
vs. AM wars....Now it looks like it's the
QRP vs. digital war....HMMMMMM,
now where did I put that stone and
sling.....

73 Hank K8DD

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: David Johnson <djohnson@acpub.duke.edu>
Subject: [2642] Digital QRP: great fun!
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.950819105812.20557A-100000@bio3.acpub.duke.edu>

Hi gang. First, I want to offer belated thanks to the few
responders to my first post to the list, regarding
digital qrp. Jim VE3XJ, Brian KV9X, Bob KI0G, Bob V01DRB
and other aliases, and Jay WB6AAM, thanks to you all for
the comments, suggestions and encouragement.

I am finally doing digital qrp! My 10-year old 8088 computer went ka-poooy, so scavenged the wife's 386 (hey, she said I could use it until we get another!) and got the DSP-2232 to copy some rtty, packet, and pactor. Next I tried to hook up the old trusty Kenwood TS-440SAT via the AFSK ports, but no joy at all on transmit (I really did follow the manual, I think ;-), so switched to the TS-50. Wow, last night some rtty contest (SARTG? what does that stand for?) was tearing up 40, so I hopped right in (just do it! Bonzai!) and (after no luck and realizing I had to tune the tuner like on any other rf qso - duh!) finally worked 3 stations! Even some DX: PJ2MI, Netherlands Antilles! Power on the medium setting is 5w out (great mod, that tweak of pots inside the rig!). So what a gas, qrp rtty in the contest!

Then on to bed so I can be functional on Saturday, and first thing to try this morning is to keep it on 40, and use the signal identification mode to search around. That is one feature I like, since it lets the computer tell ME what type of signal it sees. I couldn't tell an rtty from a pactor from a packet, a couple weeks ago! So I hear some pactor signal, and connect with Frank in NY! Wow, this is great! The copy is super, and I am beginning to see how the error-correcting modes like pactor are nicer to use.

Well what a coup! I can't wait for more digital qrp fun, and hope to contact you guys soon, on amtor, packet, pactor, hey, what ya got? I'll never quit having joy from qrp cw, and really prefer to use the computer that sits above my shoulders for that, but hey guys and gals, this digital stuff really is fun!

Have fun radiating!

Dave

David W. Johnson	QRP ARCI 6546
Amateur Extra WA4NID. Low power enthusiast!	G-QRP 4864
email: djohnson@acpub.duke.edu	NorCal 355
packet: WA4NID@KB4WGA.#DUR.NC.USA.NOAM	TSRAC 3482

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: groverc@gvgadg.gvg.TEK.COM (Grover Cleveland)
Subject: [2643] Linguistics, grammar, spelling, & C
Message-ID: <9508191608.AA04528@gvgadg.gvg.tek.com>

With all due respect to the poster of the following and the colloquial theme of the post, doesn't it seem right that one who studies linguistics might know the difference between "loose" and "lose"?

>>You don't? Well, hell, lemme give it to you: "It's better to
>>study linguistics and loose than to go into marketing."

Again, allowing for the populist tone of this tome, should we not set a better example and use "lie" in the following rather than "lay"? After all, techheads are notoriously poor writers and need all the examples of good writing they can find.

>> This does not mean that I am gonna lay here and let digital
>>users walk over me. ---

Cuz I'll tell y'all straight, I ain't gonna lay here and let them destroy the Queen's English like they've destroyed the Mother Tongue with their "72" nonsense.

No siree. Ain't gonna take that crap layin' down.

73 (as it should be) from WT6P

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: adam@philadelphia.libertynet.org (Adam O'Donnell)
Subject: [2648] Marking dials?
Message-ID: <9508192320.AA25563@philadelphia.libertynet.org>

How do you guys mark the dials on your QRP rigs. I assume that you use a crystal calibrator. How close together are your marker signals? 100kc? 50kc? 25kc? 10kc? How do you log what frequency you are on?

Thanks and 73

--

Adam O'Donnell, N3RCS
Amsat: N3RCS@AMSAT.ORG
Internet: ADAM@LIBERTYNET.ORG

"I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details."

-- Albert Einstein

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: SHUSTER5647@delphi.com
Subject: [2635] MFJ 9020 blues
Message-ID: <01HU8IYD0W148ZISN0@delphi.com>

I've had the 15 meter version of this rig for over a year and I had good luck with it. A great little store-boughten rig that has made the trip to Japan, Panama, etc. So, I decided to buy one for 20 meters.

I don't know if I got a lemon or if it just need a bit of tweaking.

The AGC attacks anything with a great sucking sound. When I tighten the cabinet screws, the sidetone jumps up about 300 hz. Even when the antenna load is perfect, the same sidetone warbles back and forth between two different pitches.

I don't have a well-stocked bench to use for a major alignment, just a digital VOM, non inductive alignment tools, and an MFJ 259.

I called MFJ (I actually got through!) and the guy who answered said that they're training a new guy to handle the qrp rigs. He also said that the qrp rigs that have been returned are piling up.
He wouldn't dare quote me any turnaround time.

I'm going to take this as a learning opportunity and try making some of my own adjustments, but I could use some advice. So, can anyone offer me some advice besides RTFM. The instructions and descriptions are kind of bare bones and my technical capabilities stop at soldering and meter reading. I do know how to use my alignment tools, though.

Is there a step by step protocol for tuning one of these rigs up?

I know I can do it with a bit of coaching.

Tweaking in Seattle,

John KC7CKP

P.S. I did make a short contact to YJ8AA in Vanuatu, so it kinda works.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: SHUSTER5647@delphi.com
Subject: [2646] MFJ 9020 Blues no more
Message-ID: <01HU9JQ48KC68X0CCZ@delphi.com>

A public thanks to Geno, AL7GQ. He suggested I check for cold/loose solder joints. I completely disassembled the rig to find four components that were only soldered at one end! The other ends were through the holes but obviously not making solid contact. So, I pulled out the pencil soldering iron, reassembled, powered up, and, voila', everything started working well.

Spurred on with my new-found confidence, I adjusted the AGC trimpot (R43) to 4 volts and the sucking noise stopped. I used a toothpick to adjust the VFO inductor (L3) and now the dial is dead on at 14.000 and 14.040. I zero-beated tones I found at those frequencies.

If we consider the quality of assembly as a benchmark, I guess now I can consider myself an MFJ 90 series electronic technician!

I still like the little fellas. They're neat rigs. If there are any modifications available, I'd like to learn about them, especially considering my newly acquired competence. -....-

Tnx es 73 to all who replied.

John KC7CKP

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: frank@yorks.demon.co.uk (Frank, G3YCC)
Subject: [2640] Milliwatting with Argo 515
Message-ID: <6582@yorks.demon.co.uk>

Some years ago, when I had the good old Ten Tec Argonaut 515 (why did I ever part with it...) I had great fun running milliwatts with it. I modded the rig

so I could monitor the PA (sorry about the misnomer!) so I could vary the power out by dropping the voltage to as low as possible and still radiate some RF. I had an outboard unit which enabled me read PA volts and milliamps, the lowest current I could run was from memory 90 ma, just above the standing current. Varying the voltage with a pot, I could run down to 1.1 volts at the 90 ma before the thing stopped radiating. So that's about 100 Mw input, which, as the Pa would be rather inefficient at these settings, I guess I would be lucky to exceed 40 Mw out, CW of course... Yes it worked fine and produced some of my most memorable QSOs on 21 Mhz. The aerial (English for antenna, which is what beetles feel about with...) was a home made gamma matched 21 Mhz 2 el beam. I well remember working Ws and VEs with the 40 Mw. There was NO indication of RF on my SWR meter at all; i now have a more sensitive one! Great to almost visualise the DX station falling off his chair when he heard what I was using! The QSLs for a couple of the QSOs have pride of place in the shack! Guess they would count for a Miles Per Watt Award!

I wonder what your most memorable QRP contact was? I might put out a few more QRP memories if anyone is interested... (been QRV on QRP for just 26 years now). Have fun.

--

Frank G3YCC (G QRP 042)
Email: frank@yorks.demon.co.uk

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: phil.heaton@wa4bro.atl.ga.us (PHIL HEATON)
Subject: [2636] Neophyte Receiver
Message-ID: <8AF63D2.01FA000350.uuout@wa4bro.atl.ga.us>

A0> Has anyone built the Neophyte Receiver? Is there any kits that are
A0> similar to the Neophyte?

I have not, but it looked intriguing. I purchased the ARRL QRP Classics book yesterday and have been sniffing around in it ever since.

Phil Heaton, KE4KRT, Phil.Heaton@SID.Net

___ Blue Wave/QWK v2.20

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [2629] Preserve CW - Internet addresses
Message-ID: <199508190219.TAA20265@mailhost.primenet.com>

Had to do some digging to pull this out of the paper pile, but here are some I-Net addresses we might use to make ourselves known on the CW issue:

Dave Sumner, K1ZZ:	dsumner@arrl.org	Exec VP
Steve Mansfield, N1MZA:	smansfield@arrl.org	Pub. Relations
Al Brogdon K3KMO	abrogdon@arrl.org	Mg. Editor QST
Mark Wilson AA2Z	mwilson@arrl.org	Editor, QST

I understand that most, if not all, of the Division Directors and Section Managers have e-mail addresses as well. The only one I know and use is that of Fried Heyn, SW Division Director (2542030@mcimail.com), but I bet a query to postmaster@arrl.org might get you the info.

In Sumner's column in the September QST ("It Seems to Us..." pp 9) he stated that "The ARRL is not planning to propose any changes to the Region 2 band plans at this conference" (the IARU Region 2 conference in late September..RH) and "No doubt there will be proposals submitted from other countries that we will be called upon to consider".

Sri for the bandwidth used by quotes, but I know that not everyone is a member of ARRL or gets QST.

Guess it's time to heat up the keyboard and let 'em know how we feel.

72/73, de Roger, AA7QY		
aa7qy@primenet.com	NorCal #1099	NEQRP #383

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com
Subject: [2647] QRP'ing
Message-ID: <950819172953_58374808@mail02.mail.aol.com>

Hi Paul,

my most interesting contact was on 17 meters in may of 93. the band sounded dead, i called CQ, and heard nothing, so I continued to listen around and heard, what sounded like a local, with a really strong signal. He signed his call as A71CW. At first, i thought it might be a boot legged call, but i called him and he came right back, gave me a 599. during the QSO i mentioned

i was running 5 watts to a vertical. we talked briefly and then he continued calling CQ. No one else, in the world, answer him. Guess i was in the right place at the right time.

A71CW is in Qatar, bordering Saudia Arabia. the only QSO i've had with any of the Arab countries, even though i've worked most of Europe.

And, right after a thunderstorm, i plugged the antenna back in, and heard Austrialia and Easter Island, at least S5 or S6, both calling CQ (i think it was 15m). They couldnt hear me, I even cranked the power up to 100 watts (yes, i was desperate, i havent worked Austrialia in a long time). Must have been a one-way path, ducting through the ionosphere.

Propagation and antennas are everything.

QRP - If it was anymore fun, it would be illegal !

72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: w2wilson@ix.netcom.com (Walter Wilson)
Subject: [2638] subscribe
Message-ID: <199508190917.CAA00825@ix9.ix.netcom.com>

Subscribe n6xg

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: Goran Hosinsky <hosinsky@royac.iac.es>
Subject: [2639] Wilderness Radio address?
Message-ID: <9508191035.AA03806@royac8.royac.iac.es>

I am looking for Bob Dyer, Wilderness Radio postal address.

73 Goran ea8yu hosinsky@royac.iac.es

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: N5EM@aol.com
Subject: [2633] Re: CW, always and for a while
Message-ID: <950818231303_57932853@emout04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-08-18 14:39:12 EDT, you write:

>I, too like CW; but realize it's a 'vanishing art'.
>I

One has only to look around at society to see other examples of things and skills that fell from favor, only to be resurrected in later generations.

One will never convince someone that hates CW that it is worthwhile or important. Just like one can never change a person's strongly held political or religious views.

What one can do, is practice the hobby. Use CW. Smile but refrain from defense when someone demeans the mode or the user. After all, most people are threatened by that which they cannot do. CW is no different than other lesser used modes. ATV comes under the same spectrum pressure. There is a move to ban ATV from 70 cm. It has prompted ATV groups to organize and elect people to the state coordination groups. We will never quit, we will never give up 70 cm television.

CW is the same way. If they encroach, so what. I can compete. Take the famous TTY station on 10106. Me and my QRP Plus have that one nailed. They operate 800 shift. I know. I have cranked the bandwidth down to 100 hz. and checked both carriers. I can operate in the middle at up to 400 hz. bandwidth. :-)) People forget that CW can go where nothing else will work. The QRP Plus at 100 hz. bandwidth is incredible.

Now, to get Coherent CW popular and easy to do. Why, we'll be able to work at power levels sooooo low that they'll never even hear us. Stealth Amateur Radio. It's not just for apartments anymore.

72 and keep on smilin'

Ed Manuel, N5EM
n5em@aol.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: prvalko <prvalko@Oakland.edu>
Subject: [2641] Re: Milliwatting with Argo 515
Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.950819082124.16724A-100000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>

On Sat, 19 Aug 1995 frank@yorks.demon.co.uk wrote:

> I wonder what your most memorable QRP contact was?

This sure beats talking about the death of CW.

Two QSOs come to mind.

- 1) I worked a station in Spain on 15 meters, I was running 1 watt, PEP (yup! evil SSB!), into my 80M dipole.
- 2) Last winter during one of the Color Burst evenings, I pulled out my Ten Tec PM-1 (the only commercial rig more primitive than a color burst crystal kit). I worked a guy in Ohio running a Ten Tec Argonaut II (a \$1300 1990's upgrade of the \$49 1969 PM-1) followed by a station in Alabama running a \$2300 Omni VI. I really think I won the award for the most "Fun per dollar" award that night.

Uhhh... I guess that's THREE most memorable QRP contacts.

73! =paul= wb8zjl

Collector of Ten Tec's, and other fine plastics

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995

From: Wynn C C <wyn@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>

Subject: [2644] RE: NETWORK TROUBLE

Message-ID: <Pine.OSF.3.91.950819123310.27127A-100000@stc06.ctd.ornl.gov>

LVE1@inel.gov (Larry East) wrote:

< Been having network problems...

Gee I seem to be having some network trouble also. The normal r.r.a.p. traffic about CW vs. Amateurs Into Digital Stuff seems to be appearing on my screen when tuned into the low power radio channel. Its a pity too, because "Digital Jim", Hans Brokab, and "The Big Kahuna" are possibly lying (laying?) in wait over there just looking for someone with whom to communicate on that subject ;-).

Would it be possible to solve the cricket encroachment problems technically? How about publishing a digital QRM proof performance spec. for new qrp transceiver designs? I have managed to work hundreds of CW QSO's, some of them first time novice operators, in the lower 5 KHz of the american novice subband on 40 meters where unattended automatic digital machines hang out. It does take some doing with tight front ends, DSP filters with advanced algorithms, careful tuning

techniques, a keen sense of propagation effects, etc.

Part of the QRP challenge seems to be to find a clear frequency on any band and establish a QSO thereon. After that, the next challenge seems to be to maintain the QSO after interference alights. Are there techniques that the QRPers should share with one another to meet those challenges? Are there helpful functions to address these challenges that should be designed into the QRP receiver and transmitter designs?

As someone correctly pointed out, HF CW is permitted everywhere. It would be a shame to ghetto-ize weak signal CW operations when one now can QSY everywhere. Maybe the QRPers could move their hailing frequencies into the phone subbands?

72/73

C. C. Wynn, N4AOX
wyn@ornl.gov

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [2628] Re: Question for NorCal 40A users
Message-ID: <199508190122.UAA14314@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Mike et.al.,

On the frequency range for the NorCal40a and this would also apply to the NN1G SWL40 rig. Everyone will probably have their own favorites.

Mine is from 7.045 down to the lowest freq the vfo will hit. Usually around 7.010 to 7.015MHz.

The reason I don't center around 7.040 is that going down is better than fighting the digital crowd starting around 7.050 or so depending upon how many of them are on and not using narrow filters or monitoring where they are. :-)

Those who hang around the 7.110 area can post their experiences up there with the BC stations every 5KHz.

dit dit

--

Chuck Adams (K5FO CP-60) adams@sgi.com
Box 181150, Dallas, TX 75218-8150

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: "W. Daniel, 9V1ZV" <daniel@pandora.lugs.po.my>
Subject: [2634] Re: Ramsey Amps?
Message-ID: <30315692.pandora@pandora.lugs.po.my>

On Fri, 18 Aug 1995 17:43:09 EDT, "Richard G. Kellner" <kellner@usa.acsys.com> wrote:

> the push-pull circuit are not contributing equally; one side is way down.

Hi,

I built on of them things about a year back or so. Samething. Instructions were wrong etc etc. In any case I felt that the layout was unstable with long lines running both the input and output. Input and output coupling was a real likelihood as is parasitic osc. I finally redesigned the whole circuit on a PCB about 1/3 the original size. This has worked much better and was giving me a little over 15 watts (depending on the power supply) with reasonable stability. Only problem is still the biasing, the MTP3055E's got REALLY hot after a little bit of usage. I am not sure how to fix the biasing, and tried a few things but none seemed to make a great deal of difference. Most likely it is a design flaw somewhere. BTW, my own PCB design had a ground-plane for the reverse side of the PCB. I can't remember what the signal looked like on the scope now.

73 de 9V1ZV Daniel

--

Daniel Wee | daniel@pandora.lugs.po.my
9V1ZV | daniel.wee@f516.n600.z6.fidonet.org

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sat Aug 19 19:32:00 1995
From: "David D. Meacham" <ddm@datatamers.com>
Subject: [2645] Re: Wilderness Radio address?
Message-ID: <Pine.LNX.3.91.950819131802.2402A-100000@dt1.datatamers.com>

Goran, Here it is: P.O. Box 734, Los Altos, CA 94023-0734. (415) 494-3806
72, Dave, W6EMD

On Sat, 19 Aug 1995, Goran Hosinsky wrote:

>

> I am looking for Bob Dyer, Wilderness Radio postal address.

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>  
> 73 Goran ea8yu hosinsky@royac.iac.es  
>  
>
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